the Forest Survey of India and the National Remote Sensing Agency, India's forest cover in relation to total land mass is 19 25 per cent whereas the minimum requirement for maintaining ecological and environmental balance is 33 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 53 per cent of Indias total land mass has turned into wasteland;

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to bring 110 million hectares of wasteland under forest cover by the end of this century as has been indicated in the perspective plan;

(d) whether the target of bringing 10 million hectares of wasteland under forest cover by 1990 will be adequate and if not, whether the target will be revised;

(e) whether Government propose to launch a time bound afforestation programme for maintaining the ecological balance;

(f) whether Government also propose to prepare special programme for the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra which have degraded land of about 10 million hectares or more; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission on Agriculture had estimated the extent of wastelands in the country to be 175 million hectares

(c) to (g) The afforestation targets are fixed on year to year basis, taking into account all relevant factors including the availability of resources

Garments export Policy

3259. SHRI K VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a long term Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for garments; and

(b) if so, what are the important features of the Policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

Statement

The salient features of the long term Export Entitlement Distribution policy for Garments are:—

(1) The policy will be for a period of three years as against an annual policy.

(2) The allotment of the past performance will be on the basis of value instead of on the basis of quantity.

(3) In order to provide, *inter alias*, opportunities to new exporters, including small scale entrepreneurs, the Government has introduced, as an experimental measure an innovative "Open Tender System" for super-fast categories.

(4) In order to upgrade the technology of garment manufacturing in the country a new direction has been given to Manufacturer-Exporter System with increased allocation and a minimum stipulation of number of machines.

(5) In order to diversify exports, the allocation for Non-Quota Exporters System has been increased substantially and exports of non-quota items to Quota countries will also be counted for allocation under this system.

Repatriation of Foreign Exchange by Tatas, etc.

3260. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Questiaon 3085